Site: M:26/10/43

The Judge's Chambers

212 West Montgomery Avenue

Built: 1878 Builders: Pumphrey & Cator Private

The Judge's Chambers is an early vernacular representative of the westward expansion of the Town of Rockville in the fourth quarter of the 19th century. James B. Henderson, who constructed the house in 1878, served as States' Attorney, Circuit Court Judge, a Director of the Montgomery County National Bank, and Trustee of the Rockville Academy.

Survey No. M:26/10/43

Magi No. 1650592604

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic: The Henderson House

and/or common: The Judge's Chambers

2. Location

street & number: 212 West Montgomery Avenue ____ not for publication

city, town: Rockville ____ vicinity of congressional district: 8

state: Maryland county: Montgomery

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
____ district	____ public	X occupied	____ agriculture	____ museum
X building(s)	X private	____ unoccupied	____ commercial	____ park
____ structure	____ both	____ work in progress	____ educational	X private residence
____ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	____ entertainment	____ religious
____ object	____ in process	____ yes: restricted	____ government	____ scientific
	____ being considered	____ yes: unrestricted	____ industrial	____ transportation
	____ not applicable	____ no	____ military	X other: multi-family

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name: Leif W. and R. F. Hansen

street & number: 7613 Fontaine Street telephone no.: 424-5015

city, town: Potomac state and zip code: Maryland 20854

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Montgomery Co. Land Records liber: 5949

street & number: Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio: 587

city, town: Rockville state: Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title: National Register of Historic Places, 1974

date: City of Rockville Historic District, 1974 X federal ____ state ____ county X local

depository for survey records: City of Rockville

city, town: Rockville state: Maryland

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
_X_ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Judge's Chambers faces north on West Montgomery Avenue near the intersection of West Montgomery and Great Falls Road. It sits at the northern end of a trapezoid-shaped lot which slopes steeply to the south. A parking area is formed immediately behind the house where the driveway on the east side from West Montgomery connects with a driveway on the west side accessed from Great Falls. A large tree, one of a number in the back yard, marks the point of intersection of the driveways. A partially enclosed three-car carport and enclosed storage area are aligned along the western property edge near the rear of the house.

This 2-and-1/2-story, gable-front-and-wing frame house with rear gable ell is a vernacular Victorian residence. It has had a number of additions. These include a two-story addition at the southwestern corner, a second-story enclosure at the southeastern corner, a one-story addition at the northwestern corner, and a one-story gable addition attached the the south gable end of the rear ell. This makes a modified "Z" shape.

The gable roofs of the main block and some of the additions are covered in asphalt shingles; the porches have seamed tin roofs. The house sits on a stone foundation; the porches on brick piers. It is sheathed in German siding. Almost all of the windows are two-over-two with molded wooden lintels. Many have flanking wooden louvered shutters. The second-story windows meet the cornice line running around the house. There are four interior brick chimneys.

The north facade has four bays on the main block. The first bay is located in the gable front. A one-story, almost flat-roofed bay window projects from the first story with a window on each of three faces. A single window is centrally placed above the bay; a semi-circular decorative vent is above that. The remaining three bays have an even fenestration with an exterior door in the second bay, first floor. A one-story open porch with hipped roof covers these three bays and is supported by three posts with jig-sawn brackets.

The one-story addition at the northwestern corner has a single window and a balustrade above. The two-story addition at the southwestern corner has one window visible on the second story.

Continued on attachment 7.1

The east facade has two bays on the main block with an even fenestration. The first-story windows are longer than those on the second story. Another one-story, hip-roofed open porch projects from this facade. Four posts with decorative brackets, similar to those on the front, support it with a balustrade having turned balusters connecting the posts. The rear second-story enclosure at the southeastern corner is visible on this facade. When enclosed, two six-over-six windows were added in the vertical siding. This is above an open porch with three square posts and a decorative balustrade.

The rear or south facade shows the most alterations and additions. Therefore, it has an asymmetrical massing caused by the gables, gable sides, and porches. There are ten windows found on this facade, with six-over-six, six-over-one, and two-over-two sashes in pairs and individually. Two decorative vents on the gable ell and the rear of the front gable also are evident. Wooden stairs lead from the one-story rear gable addition that is attached to the ell.

The west facade has a mix of six-over-six and two-over-two windows in its irregular arrangement. The many additions found here also give this an asymmetrical massing.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	X other (specify) local history
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1878 **Builder/Architect** Cator & Pumphrey, Builders

check: Applicable Criteria: ___A ___B ___C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state X local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Significance

The Judge's Chambers is an early representative of the westward expansion of the Town of Rockville in the fourth quarter of the 19th century. Constructed for a Rockville attorney and Judge, the house has had minor exterior alterations.

History and Support

The 1,620 acres patented by Arthur Nelson as "Exchange & New Exchange" 1/ remained in the hands of the large plantation owners like the Bealls, Woottons and O'Neales for most of the 18th and early 19th century. As the village of Rockville spread beyond its 1803 boundaries, several structures were built along the roads west to the Great Falls and Mouth of Monocacy (later Darnestown Road.) In the late 1830s, the Episcopal parsonage and the residence of John Cook were both located on the south side of the Road to Darnestown. By 1865 several small buildings (thought to be shops) were clustered at the intersection. 2/ The construction of the subject house, the demolished Anderson House, and the Speare House (208 W. Montgomery Avenue), occurred after 1870 on the first block west of the 1803 town boundaries.

The Judge's Chambers was constructed for attorney James B. Henderson in 1878. Judge Henderson was the son of Rosanna Neel of Neelsville and the Rev. James Henderson. 3/ He was born in 1845 and spent his youth at the Neelsville family home while his father ministered to settlers in the new states of Kentucky and Tennessee. The younger James Henderson came to Rockville after the Civil War to read law at the office of Brewer & Peter. In 1869 when Brewer died, George Peter offered a partnership in the firm to the young attorney. Assured of his future, James Henderson married 23 year old school teacher Clara Adamson the following year. 4/ Clara was descended from a family that had first settled in the area in 1726. 5/

James and Clara purchased a double lot fronting on the south side of Darnestown road and running southeast to Falls Road "...part of Exchange and New Exchange." The same day (December 18, 1877) they sold the east portion of the lot for $200 to fellow attorney Hattersley Talbott. 6/ Both Talbott and Henderson built houses soon after but chose different styles and builders for their homes. 7/

Continued on attachment 8.1

The Talbott house (now Speare House) is a T-shaped vertical block with mansard roof built by John Edmonston. The home built by the Hendersons was the product of carpenters George Cator and W. R. Pumphrey and is a more typical late Victorian cross-gabled, L-shaped horizontal mass. The Henderson house appears on the 1879 Tax Assessment valued at $2150.

Henderson became the successful Democratic party nominee for State's Attorney in 1879 and was reelected in 1884. He was a Director of the Montgomery County National Bank (which his son, George P., later headed) and a Trustee of the Rockville Academy. His career was capped by his selection to the Circuit Court to succeed John T. Vinson and his subsequent election to a full 15 year term. He served until 1910 and died in 1917.

Eight children were raised in the Judge's rambling house. The younger Hendersons intermarried with the local elite and embraced careers in law, banking and medicine. 8/ Clara Henderson outlived three of her sons and devised the house to her heirs at her death in 1926, but the house was sold to Clara Ray Wilson in 1928. Builder Franklin Karn owned the house from 1943 9/ to 1949. Around the time of its sale to Edward Osborn 10/ and in response to the demand for apartment space for the young families of the post-war "baby boom", the house was subdivided into three apartment units, although little exterior alteration was made. Mr. Osborn named the structure "The Judges Chambers", unfortunately erecting a sign noting the construction date as 1847. The house was sold to two couples for investment in 1973; one of these couples, the Leif Hansens, still owns the property.

Footnotes:

1. Arthur Nelson received the patent for both "Exchange" and "New Exchange" in 1719. He combined the holdings under a new patent, "Exchange and New Exchange", in 1721.
2. Martinet & Bond Map of 1865. The Anderson House was constructed on the site of these small buildings.
3. Henderson / Neel family information contained in Henderson genealogy file of Montgomery County Historical Society and from the Portrait and Biographical Record of the Sixth Congressional District (Chapman Publishing; 1898) pp 749, 750.
4. Census of 1860. An advertisement for Rockville Female Academy in Montgomery County Sentinel in 1865 lists Clara Adamson Principal. Principal.
5. Adamson family genealogy file quotes land records for patent of "Adamsons Choice" of 100 acres, July 2, 1726. In Frederick County Land Record F/643 (1759), Basil Adamson, "planter" deeds Adamson Choice to William Williams, "gentleman"; The land is located "near Captain Johns".
6. Montgomery County Land Records EBP17/251,264.
7. Montgomery County Sentinel, 1878.
8. James Alby Henderson was elected to The Maryland House of Delegates in 1909.
9. Land Records, op.cit., 907/8
10. Ibid, 1241/210 (1949).

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Montgomery County Land, Will, Equity, and Plat Records; Family Genealogies of Hendersons, Adamsons. 1865, 1879 Atlases, maps. Interview with Leif Hansen (1985).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ~~19,298 square feet~~

Quadrangle name _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

South edge of West Montgomery Avenue running southeast to Falls Road.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Anne W. Cissel / Dwayne Jones, Architectural Description		
organization	Peerless Rockville	date	July 1985
street & number	P.O. Box 4262	telephone	762-0096
city or town	Rockville	state	Maryland 20850

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
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PS-2746

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M: 26/10/43
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8-85 SE facade